

Bangalore Mirror

ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 22 | Min 32 | Humidity 87%

Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain

Sensex 57,527 | Nifty 16,945 | Gold 60,050 | Silver 75,700 | Dollar 82.48 | Euro 88.80 | GBP 100.73

CITY / PAGE 2

AI meets art

Climate discussed by artists, activists, techies at futuristic art festival



CITY / PAGE 6

Fourth time's a charm?

Palike makes another attempt to re-tender never ending Ejipura project



BBMP receives unusually high number of requests for setting up speed breakers & nearly all of them are from police stations

BRAKING BAD

City has 3,000 road humps; one for every 4 km of 13,000 km roads

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has received a large number of requests for the establishment of road humps in city roads. According to BBMP data, Palike has received nearly 523 requests for road humps and nearly all of them are from police stations.

Officials at BBMP are now perplexed by the growing demand for the establishment of road humps. Palike officials felt that the implementation of these many speed breakers could effectively bring mobility to a halt.

According to BBMP estimates, the city already has 2,000 to 3,000 road humps in major and arterial roads. With over 13,000 km of roads in the city, there is a road hump for every 4 km. But demands are pouring in from area MLAs, residents, police stations and traffic police stations to construct more speed breakers, said BBMP officials.

As per the BBMP data shared



“If all the requested road humps are installed, mobility will be drastically reduced; it can lead to vehicle pile-ups...”

— BBMP official

with BM, the highest number of requests came from Whitefield (48) followed by Jayanagar (47) and Kengeri (44).

“We are receiving lots of requests

for road humps. There should be some limit on the number of road humps that can be installed. If all the requested road humps are installed, mobility per km will be

drastically reduced. This will also lead to vehicle pile-ups in certain stretches. Traffic police need to effectively enforce traffic rules and not just install road humps. The requests for installation of excess road humps raise the question of surmounting maintenance work and costs,” a senior BBMP official told BM.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>

State of plants



Saplings planted 2 years ago by BMRC in lieu of trees cut or translocated for metro

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Nearly 25% of the saplings planted by Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation (BMRC) under compensatory afforestation at three water bodies in the city are either dead or on verge of dying.

According to a rapid assessment of the status of 901 plantlets, conducted by a city-based organisation at Veerasagara, Sarakki, and Gottigere lakes, as many as 211 saplings have either turned brown or have no leaves or are already dead.

The study was done on saplings that were planted at least two years ago by BMRC in lieu of trees either cut or translocated for various metro lines. The survey, conducted to understand the status of the saplings planted, assessed 120 saplings at Veerasagara Lake, 621 saplings at Sarakki Lake, and 160 saplings planted by BMRC at Gottigere Lake. The three lakes for the study were randomly selected based on convenience.

“We conducted the study to understand the status of health of saplings planted under compensatory afforestation by BMRC. We found out that while 16.5% of the total saplings studied are water-stressed; nearly 4% appear to be dead. The assessment highlights

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>

3 THINGS TO DO



01 Climate talk

Seema Mundoli, faculty member at Azim Premji University and Ranjini Murali, a conservation scientist presents a book release on "Chasing Soppu" – a guide, a source of inspiration and documentation of culinary recipes of wild plant species. This will be followed by a talk on "Climate Crisis and the Indian Monsoon" by Prof BN Goswami, A SERB Distinguished Fellow at the Cotton University of Guwahati, who has made pathbreaking contributions in understanding the variability and predictability of the South-Asian monsoon. **Where:** Bangalore International Centre; **When:** March 27, 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm



02 A slice of jazz

Playing a combination of original music and jazz, the Meera Desai Collective experiments in lyrical folk and jazz and has been releasing original music with producer Raag Sethi since 2019. The group is a meeting of passionate and diverse musicians involved in India's contemporary jazz scene, focusing on finding and creating beauty in subtle ways. Catch them live! **Where:** Windmills; **When:** March 25, 9:30 pm onwards; **Tickets:** Bookmyshow.com

03 Melodies divine

The Morning Raag concert series at Jagriti is a celebration of classical music performed by some of the best Hindustani and Carnatic vocalists and instrumentalists. Vaibhav Ramani, violinist, will be accompanied by Kaushik Sridhar on the mridangam. They will be presenting a Contemporary Carnatic music concert, including both traditional pieces as well as instrumental pieces called Ragapravaham. **Where:** Lumbini, Jagriti Theatre; **When:** April 2, 7:30 am
Tickets: bookmyshow.com



When AI meets art

... artists, activists and tech enthusiasts get together and brainstorm about climate change and other issues at ongoing futuristic art festival

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Bangalore for the first time is hosting an art festival that explores the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and art to address the issue of climate change. FutureFantastic, a three-day festival aims to unite various groups of artists, technologists, activists, and tech enthusiasts to promote collaborative art-making towards social change.

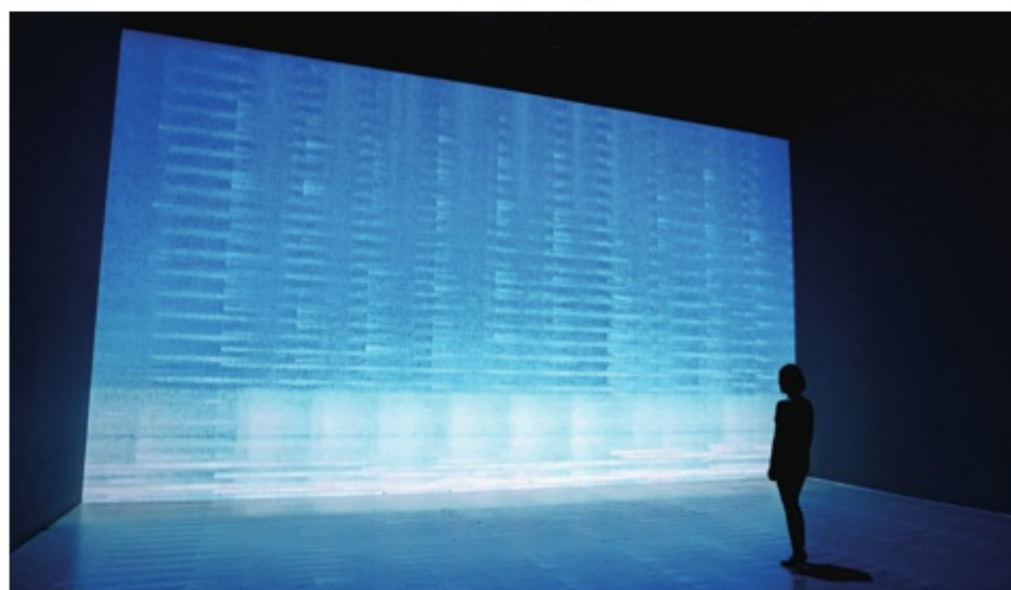
The festival has been conceptualised by BeFantastic in partnership with FutureEverything (UK) and has been primarily supported by the British Council's India Together UK Season of Culture and Rohini and Nandan Nilekani Philanthropies.

Kamya Ramachandran, Festival Director and Co-Curator of FutureFantastic, told Bangalore Mirror that this is a moment to mark within the city where a tech-art festival triggers conversation around two complex concepts like AI and climate change.

"We are in the space to bring artists and technology together to create new forms of art. For example-there's immersive art experiences where you walk in a room and you are part of the artwork inside it. You can have interactive art experiences where you wave your hand to the tech piece and it figures the reaction or a response. In this way the technology offers a very interesting possibility to art," she said.

After three years of enabling artists and creative technologists to come together online from various time zones, for a sincere exchange of knowledge and ideas, the festival is poised to celebrate its reception from March 24 to 26, 10:30 am to 9 pm at Bangalore International Centre in Domlur.

"The festival will explore



Many of the artworks have artificial intelligence embedded in them for a different experience

how this kind of art can make us visualise a more positive future. We will present artworks, performances, workshops, panel discussions with layers of AI. If art tells a story, art with technology has different ways of telling stories which are immersive and more interactive. Some of the stories we tell have a deeper impact because of the engagement," she explained.

"This is a very new format and which is why we are doing it on a festival scale. As digital innovation in art has a lot of scope and potential; we would like to make sure that it grows," she added.

On walking inside, one can see 20 screens or projector-based tech art installations which have some layer of AI in it, made or triggered by AI. The festival features workshops, panel discussions, screening of films that will let audiences understand the gravity of climate change and the severity of it. Furthermore, the festival presents five interesting performances that

From AI-infused installations to film screenings, workshops and performances, audiences have a lot to look forward to at this event

have used AI.

Referring to the immersive installation at the festival, a group of five artists from various regions of Brazil, India, and UK, said that they were excited to be part of the first-of-its kind fest in India. The group presents a project called 'Asthir Gehrayee', meaning unstable depths, which is an immersive exhibit. It comprises Monica Hirano from Brazil, Sayli Kulkarni from India, and David McFarlane, Irini Kalaitzidi, and Jaime Jackson from the UK.

"The performers here are the audience. They have to be part of it as we are not performing. They have to move in a particular



speed and way so that these visuals that are being projected, start changing and their movements create harmony," said Kulkarni.

"We are a group of five artists, making an interactive installation all about planktons. There's immersive sounds, interactive visuals, and different art forms together. We are inviting people not to just watch but also move with it. It has been an experience to communicate across the ocean and now it is amazing that we meet in person to share this work with the Indian audience," said Kalaitzidi.

College merger on cards for Education Department?

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The Higher Education Department is mulling affiliating the Government Arts College and the Ram Narayan Chellaram College with the Nrupatunga University. The department also asked Nrupatunga University to check the feasibility of adding these two colleges.

Sources said that the proposed affiliation of these two colleges to Nrupatunga University is due to the department's failure in allocating 10 acre of land. "Previously, the newly formed university had requested the Higher Education Department for the provision of 10 acres of land for the expansion

Sources say the proposed merger is due to department's failure in allocating 10 acre of land to the varsity

of the university premises or the affiliation of Government Arts College and the Ram Narayan Chellaram College to Nrupatunga University. Considering the difficulty of providing 10 acres of land to the University, the department is considering the option of affiliating two colleges to the university," said an official.

"There are many colleges affiliated with several universities. In the same manner, we requested the Higher Education Department

to provide affiliation of two colleges to our university failing which, officials should provide a place for expansion of the Nrupatunga University," says Srinivas Balli, Vice-Chancellor Nrupatunga University

History of Nrupatunga University

In 2020, Government Science College was renamed as Nrupatunga University by the Higher Education Department. The university currently offers seven post-graduation courses and 20 undergraduate courses. The university is home to three research centres. According to the National Education Policy, this university has multiple streams of education rather than a single stream of education.

Bengaluru's road daredevils

Bengaluru had high number of accidents in February; most in KR Puram, then Peenya



Flouting traffic rules is a common cause for accidents in B'luru

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Bengaluru in February recorded 57 fatal and 311 non-fatal accidents on the road. Out of that, the maximum number of accidents were recorded in KR Puram traffic police limits.

The neighbourhood of KR Puram recorded 24 non-fatal accidents and two fatal accidents in February. The second highest number of accidents were recorded in Peenya, where there were 17 non-fatal and 3 fatal accidents on the road. Kumaraswamy Layout recorded 16 non-fatal and one fatal accident which was followed by Kengeri, which recorded 15 non-fatal and four fatal accidents.

According to the data by traffic police, KR Puram is recording the maximum incidents of road accidents in the city from the past few months. In 2022, KR Puram had an increase of 193 per cent in road accidents as compared to 2021. The area recorded 188 cases of road accidents in 2022.

According to Balaji Ragotam, a resident of KR Puram, this is happening because of narrow roads and frequent road rage.

"The main problem is the narrow roads and unplanned layouts, which makes the area more vulnerable to accidents. In the past 15 years, KR Puram has developed a lot and almost everyone has a vehicle, but the issue is that even in 2023, we will have very narrow roads making it difficult to have a smooth traffic flow. The other problem is that there is a lot of road rage. Every day I witness people over speeding and violating traffic rules in the area. The main city is congested so people tend to follow speed limits, but as soon as they enter KR Puram from the high-

Narrow roads which are overcongested, reluctance in following rules, road rage — these are some reasons for high number of accidents in Bluru

way, they start speeding," he said.

MN Sreehari, a traffic expert, said certain stretches in the city have many accidents because of unruly traffic.

"Certain stretches like KR Puram record a large number of road accidents because of unruly traffic. There is also a problem of parking spaces, people are parking their vehicles on the road and because of that the narrow roads become even more congested for traffic flow. I have often seen that below the no-parking board, many vehicles are parked and the cops don't seem to do anything. The other problem is that there are no proper pathways for pedestrians in KR Puram, which makes them vulnerable to accidents," he said.

Traffic police say the outskirts of the city are more prone to accidents because there is less visibility of traffic cops on the ground and also because people are not aware about traffic rules.

"People are less aware of traffic regulations in Bengaluru outskirts, which increases the number of accidents. The visibility of police officers in Central Bengaluru has contributed to a decrease in accidents, however it's not the same in the outskirts. In order to curb violations, we have conducted awareness campaigns and installed cameras. Places like KR Pura, Yelahanka, Kengeri, and Hoskote have the most accidents as these areas also record the maximum cases of over speeding," said the police.

Drugs worth Rs 90.8 crore, up in smoke

The Bengaluru police on Friday destroyed 4,297.8 kg of seized drugs worth Rs

90.8 crore. Around 4,110 kg of weed, 11 kg of weed oil, 22 kg of cannabis oil, 8 kg of opium, 5.5 kg of charas, 62.7 kg of MDMA powder/crystal and 8,073 tablets were destroyed at Dabaspeta industrial area. The Bengaluru police had seized these drugs from October 2022 to March 2023.



Police said that the action was taken after prior permission from the drugs disposal committee.

Review NDPS: Shah

Addressing a regional conference on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security' for southern States and Union Territories, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said maritime security needs to be strengthened as most of the narcotic drugs are shipped in from Pakistan and go via Iran to Sri Lanka and Africa.

Traffic restrictions

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting Bengaluru to inaugurate the Metro train service between KR Puram and Whitefield, the Bengaluru City police have restricted the traffic movement on Saturday in the following roads completely between 12 pm to 2:30 pm: Hoodi-Varthur Road, from Varthuru Kodi to Sathya Sai Ashram, from Graphite India to Vydehi Hospital Road, from Vaidehi hospital to Big Bazaar Junction and from Hope Farm Junction to Channasandra. —BMB

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The final scramble

Internationalism is lost, on the current stock of politicians distraught in geopolitics, when it is needed more than ever. On the contrary, knives are out for internationalists.

Cavalier lawmakers not accountable to their constituents shall take us sooner to the inevitability of succumbing to the cascading effects of errant climate — imminent fallout of the crisis now manifesting in varied geography can be tackled only as a universal collective.

Despite the annual Cop summits, including the one that wrapped up in Egypt (COP27) and the one scheduled in Saudi Arabia (COP28), the picture that is emerging is of a divided humanity of glaring inequities: Technocrat politicians doing a balancing act straddling big oil and renewables declare they are anti woke. The Saudis hosting the next summit, as Aramco posts record revenues, is not convincing.

The economic challenges that shall emerge alongside climate chaos remain largely unanticipated in the global south except at the frontlines in the absence of earnest deliberation with stakeholders, robust policy, along with decisive climate action and a discourse of discussion and debate in mainstream press.

The India context lacks focus now though we have so much at stake along the 7,500-km coastline and the vast Himalayan expanse where the repercussions of climate uncertainties will be more pronounced — on the geographies and communities that sustain on the resources in the regions. The burning coal question apart.

Fact is, the planet's poor and vulnerable human beings stand betrayed and voiceless during one of the most critical and decisive times — from slum dwellers awaiting state compensation for 2022's unprecedented floods in Bengaluru to Pacific islanders finding themselves stateless all of a sudden as sea levels rise.

The mounting injustice of social inequities, of income, gender and so forth, are laid bare by this crisis too as the rich continue to exploit natural resources while the poor majority is forcibly engaged to cushion the impact of the fallout.

At the administrative level, we have a bunch of charlatans, who have somehow positioned themselves as 'elected/un-elected representatives' across the world, seemingly shortchanging us during the most damning existential bind in aeons perhaps.

The future looks terribly bleak if we factor in looming crises, only compounded by detrimental acts of aforesaid actors (the charlatans) busy ring-fencing theirs or their masters' fortunes instead of reassuring the global citizenry in the face of impending doom.

Paradox is, at a time when we mustn't approach any governmental 'policy' without climate action



at the heart of it, we have some of the most wayward regimes unsure of any policy, on the backdrop of the sixth assessment report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The 'synthesis report' sounded a final warning before the next report is due around 2030: it said, it is now or never, humanity's final scramble to endure.

Returning to the charlatans diminishing our chances of survival in the climate fallout, for instance, one who was caught in the web of his own lies and his inability to hold together the coterie of liars he had collected over time is the former prime minister of the United Kingdom. In fact, Boris' band of liars pounced on him one by one haggling for the Tory party leadership before the sly and slick Rishi Sunak succeeded.

Boris was lately seen reducing himself before another parliamentary enquiry panel in that country wrecking whatever was left of his political career defending the indefensible lockdown parties, invariably boosting the persona of the unelected Tory leader and prime minister Sunak.

These men are amongst a line of politicians who went to expensive schools, perhaps bullied and lobbied their way to leadership positions, to further the west's isolationist agenda which is on grand display now when the world would do much better in the long term if it remained internationalist instead to face up to the climate emergency.

Perhaps Boris went overtly overboard after securing one of most overwhelming electoral majorities over Brexit. Sunak is now furthering Boris' legacy pushing the oppression slider a notch up — to mercilessly sink the prospects of refugee boats seeking asylum and disenfranchising the British working class, questioning their right to protest and so on.

This is essentially hacking the branch you are on.

Intriguing aspect is, why are certain personalities, especially those whose roots lie in the global south, brought in to manage fracas in the west as sly bookkeepers. Do these persons have a higher threshold for suffering, to look away from illegalities perpetrated on the vulnerable as they themselves or their generational kin were subjected to in erstwhile colonies? Or is it that they don't have the guilty conscience burden of the west, so that all is overlooked, if western countries were to now push back and employ their old ways in a resource-stricken, climate-ravaged world, a reality dawning sooner than expected?

This seat is taken

Activists say raising awareness works as BMTC collects ₹1,90,400 from men occupying women's seats in buses

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In 2022-23, the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) detected 15,164 cases of violations. The corporation collected Rs 56,04,465 for ticketless travel and Rs 1,90,400 for male passengers occupying seats reserved for women passengers. As per data, the cases registered have been on the rise in the past three years.

Raise awareness

Women activists feel that BMTC needs to raise awareness about the reserved seats and can reduce such incidents by making the signages more prominent. "Male passengers don't understand the significance of reserved seats for women. As per rules, the front door is supposed to be meant only for women passengers. Women have to go through the crowd and reach for these seats and fight for them. When women enter buses, male passengers should get up and leave the seats or the conductor should intervene," said women's rights activist KS Vimala.

She added that there is a need to make the signages more prominent. "In many buses, the signs are not visible. Posters are placed on top of the signs. BMTC should make sure the signages are visible more clearly. There has also been a mandate for CCTV cameras. However, in addition to fixing CCTVs, there is a need to monitor CCTVs from time to time," she added.



This Women's Day, women enjoyed fareless rides on BMTC buses

She added that such cases are on the decline after much awareness raised by women activists. "Previously, we used to raise awareness in prominent bus stops. We conducted a month-long campaign and distributed leaflets. Further, several memorandums were raised to the government in this regard," she added.

Case count

In 2020-21, it has seen 10,483 and 11,831 cases in 2021-22. Since 2020, BMTC has seen a 44.65% increase in cases. Under penalty imposed for ticketless travel, BMTC collected Rs 80,16,240 (2020-21), 32,88,165 (2021-22), and 56,04,465 (2022-23). Under fines collected for male passengers occupying seats reserved for women, BMTC collected 97,600 in 2021-22. However, these cases are

In many buses, the signs are not visible. BMTC should make sure the signages are visible clearly

—KS Vimala, women's rights activist on the decline.

Collectively, BMTC collected Rs 57,94,865 in 2022-23 from 31,754 passengers for both penalties and checks were made in 1,74,496 bus trips.

A senior BMTC official told BM, "We have deputed officials to check for ticketless travel and other penalties. If citizens have suggestions on how to reduce cases of male passengers occupying seats reserved for women, they can write to BMTC directly."

K'taka decides to abolish 4% quota for religious minorities

In the last cabinet meeting, the Basavaraj S Bommai-led Government took its biggest gamble by revising the reservation for a few categories.

The Karnataka government on Friday announced its decision to abolish the four per cent quota for 'religious minorities' and add it to the existing quota of two dominant communities of the poll-bound state. The 4% reservation will now be divided into two equal parts and added to the existing quota for the Vokkaligas and Lingayats for whom two new categories of 2C and 2D were created during the Belagavi Assembly Session last year.

The cabinet decided to bring

4% quota will be divided into 2 equal parts and added to quota for Lingayats and Vokkaligas



Meanwhile on Friday, senior Congress leaders, Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar and G Parameshwara took part in a protest demonstration against the BJP for the delay in implementing the increase in reservation for SC/ST communities

the religious minorities under the EWS category.

The decision comes ahead of the assembly elections. Briefing reporters after the cabinet meeting, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the religious minorities quota would be done away with and brought under the 10% pool of the EWS group without any change of

condition. "The 4% (reservation for minorities) will be divided into two between 2C and 2D. The four per cent reservation for the Vokkaligas and others will enhance to 6% and Veerashaiva Panchamasali and others (Lingayats), who were getting 5% reservation will now get 7%," the CM explained.

PTI

Doors open to more engineering colleges

All India Council for Technical Education lifts moratorium; move to attract more students

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The All India Council for Technical Education has lifted the moratorium for establishing new colleges for engineering and technology.

As per the AICTE's latest handbook, the moratorium has been lifted from the academic year 2023-24. However, for establishing a new institution, preference shall be given to the applicant in multi-disciplinary areas in line with NEP 2020 in STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) areas, it said.

It goes on to say that existing institutions that have applied for closure of the institution are also eligible to apply to start a new technical institution in the same premises in the same academic year.

"Technical institutions applying under this clause shall have to apply for progressive/ complete closure of the institution for the



Preference to be given to the applicant, in line with NEP, says AICTE

existing programme(s) and shall apply for a different programme. However, the applicant has to make material/ non-material amendments to the building plan and site plan, etc. The moratorium clauses have been relaxed. The interested nonprofit society / trust or company under Section 8 can establish the technical Institution across India in engineering and technology programs. Further, the land requirements at rural and semi-urban areas have been relaxed for the

existing as well as new institutions."

An engineering professor told BM that Karnataka in general and Bengaluru in particular have seen a spurt in engineering colleges.

"At one point of time, Karnataka had one of the highest numbers of engineering colleges in the country. Students from across the country would want to study here. However, the growth of engineering colleges in the neighbouring states weaned the students away. Then, a few col-

leges had to be shut due to lack of infrastructure or lack of admission. Since then, not many colleges have come up. However, the lifting of the moratorium and relaxing of the norms may encourage many to start engineering colleges. However, no one should forget the key aspect that only those who provide quality education will survive," the professor said.

Interestingly, AICTE has added this provision under the essential requirement; hiring counsellors for seeking help and guidance for psychological counselling related to mental health for students, faculty and non-teaching faculty.

Moving further, young people are growing up in a complex world of online and offline, wherein their lives get inter-mixed. In this environment, the institutes have the responsibility to guide the students to be safe and healthy and to effectively manage the academic, personal, and social lives. Institutes have to make provision for counsellors, said an official.

Let school campuses be 'child-friendly'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In order to make educational institutes in India more positive mental health and wellness friendly, the Ministry of Education has invited suggestions and insights on the same.

The Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had chaired a high-level meeting on Sunday to review the mental well-being of students. Now, the ministry is setting up an effective grievance redressal system along with top educational regulatory bodies such as The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), which will focus on the mental wellness of students and zero tolerance towards discrimination of all types.

Furthermore, the ministry has also invited suggestions and discussion about promoting the students' holistic wellness and has urged people to send suggestions via email.

Experts and school management say that there needs to be a focus on making schools more child-friendly.

"It is important that children have a positive relationship with the schools. This could be done by encouraging the students to participate more in decision-making processes in the schools; it also fulfils their right to participation and gives them a sense of belongingness towards the school," explained Nagasimha G Rao, director of Child Rights Trust (CRT).

The schools should train the teachers in basic counselling skills and soft skills, he added.



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Fourth time's a charm?

Palike makes another attempt to re-tender never ending Ejipura project

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) claims that two bidders have now evinced interest in constructing the stalled Ejipura flyover project. BBMP Special Commissioner (Projects), Ravindra PN, told the media, "This is the fourth time we have called for a tender to take up the project. For the latest round, two bidders have participated. We will evaluate the bidders at the technical evaluation committee meeting, which will be followed by a financial evaluation of the successful bidder. We hope that we can finish the project at the earliest."

The Ejipura flyover is a classic example of projects that are half-done or long-drawn in the city. The foundation stone for the project was laid way back in 2017, and work was started in 2018. From 2018-2019, there was a mere 32 per cent progress, and between 2019-2023, the progress has been just 10 per cent. After Simplex Infrastructure Ltd turned bankrupt and the contract was cancelled, BBMP failed to retender the project. Tenders were called three times, but it failed to materialise.

The project, connecting a 2.5-km-long stretch from Kendriya Sadan to Ejipura through the Sony World signal, was floated in 2018 with a target completion date of 30 months at a cost of Rs 203 crore. The project cost was revised to Rs 240 crore, but the remaining works are estimated to be worth Rs



File photo of the incomplete Ejipura flyover; the foundation stone for the project was laid way back in 2017, and work was started in 2018, however, there was a mere 32 per cent progress between 2018 and 2019

141.6 crore. The earlier deadline for the project was to be completed by 2024. This is a crucial flyover as it connects east Bengaluru to south.

A senior BBMP official said, "We have been trying hard to finalise the project, but not many contractors are applying for the tender. Although a contractor had applied earlier, he was not willing to negotiate, and the tender failed. So, we were forced to go for re-tendering three times. Now, we are hopeful that one of the two bidders may take up the project."

"We have been trying hard to finalise the project. We were forced to re-tender 3 times. We are hopeful that one of the 2 bidders may take it up now" — BBMP official

Krishna Menon, a resident of Koramangala, said, "We would have been happy if the BBMP had never taken up the project at all.

From Kadirenahalli underpass to Ejipura flyover, their projects take a lot of time for completion. It is the residents and motorists who suffer on a daily basis. As the BBMP has taken up the project, they need to expedite it and complete it at the earliest now."

A few other citizens also pointed out the need for a link road that was included in the Revised Master Plan, 2015. They reported that nothing was started on the ground, and they have been following it up with the authorities in vain.

Poster problems pester citizens

City folks don't have much hope about fresh BBMP statement concerning posters/banners

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, who is also the Bangalore District Election Officer, said that Zonal Commissioners would be the nodal officers for the enforcement of violations of public nuisance in their zones. In an order issued recently, Nath said that they would be the competent authority under the BBMP Act 2020 to ensure there is no violation of the same.

"The special team shall be constituted in coordination and consultation with the police department to ensure proactive action for violation of public nuisance under Section 254 of the BBMP Act, including the removal of hoardings, banners, and bunting, and to initiate penal actions against the violators under the relevant law," he informed. The

order stated that the Zonal Commissioners have to compile the information and submit daily reports of Bengaluru election districts (Central, North, South, Urban) to the Additional District Election Officers and the District Election Officer.

"Any violations of the order will be viewed seriously and will be liable for action against the officer concerned under the provision of the Representation of People Act, 1951, Indian Penal Code 1860, and relevant laws," he further stated in the order.

The BBMP Act 2020 prohibits unauthorised affixing of any bill, notice, or document upon any building, monument, post, wall, fence, tree, or any other public place. The act also prohibits defacing, writing upon, or otherwise marking on a building, monument, post, wall, fence, tree, or any other public place.

It may be noted that Congress, BJP, and AAP have been vying among themselves by pasting posters



A few pourakarmikas trying to remove posters from a compound wall in Old Madras Road; Putting up posters is banned in the city

on walls at public places, appealing to voters to elect them in the forthcoming assembly elections. While BJP pasted banners boasting of their achievements, Congress put up posters highlighting their promise of financial assistance, free electricity, and rice. AAP put up flexes appealing voters to give them a chance to rule the state.

"I am of the opinion that the BBMP Chief Commissioner has issued the order for the sake of issuing it. The Palike utterly failed to keep the city free from illegal banners,

posters, and hoardings," said Shanmugam, an autorickshaw driver.

Expressing a similar opinion, Purushotham V, a resident of Anaswamy Mudaliar Road, said that he has come across many posters and hoardings in Yelahanka, Shivajinagar, and other areas in the city. "I am not sure about the implementation of the order by the BBMP authorities. There is a High Court order banning illegal banners and hoardings. BBMP and the police have to ensure the city is free from them," he said.

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Pavements occupied
HRBR Layout



Footpaths along Tendersure roads are fully encroached in 80 feet road, HRBR Layout, opposite Starbucks.

Bus block

Kadugodi



Private buses are blocking the exit of the foot overbridge towards Kadugodi bus station.

Uneven pavement

OMBR Layout



The footpath near CMR College, 2nd cross, OMBR Layout needs immediate repair work done. There are uneven slabs.

Relook at what's going on at tiger reserve

NTCA writes to forest dept seeking details on construction inside Kali reserve

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Based on a recent report published by Bangalore Mirror on illegal construction and infrastructure development in the core area of Kali Tiger reserve, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has now written to the Karnataka Forest Department asking for a factual report on the issue.

Addressed to the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state government, the letter has cited yet another representation made by wildlife activists through the news report on alleged illegal construction activities in the core areas of the reserve.

"... another representation vide email dated 22.03.2023 has been received by this authority wherein wildlife activists have raised the issue of illegal construction and infrastructure development in the core areas of Kali Tiger Reserve. In this regard, I am directed to request you to furnish a factual report to this authority at the earliest..." read the letter by the assistant inspector general of forest, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

On multiple occasions, the activists have alleged that various illegal construction activities have been taken up inside the reserve area without due approval. Orchidarium, jungle safari, and canopy walks were



Alarms were raised about construction going on in the core areas of Kali Tiger Reserve

some of the illicit activities highlighted.

Locals say that the demand to conduct a thorough inquiry on financial assistance under CSR for the construction of the Orchidarium in the core area has been raised in the

Locals have also demanded a probe about the role of Tiger Conservation Foundation of the Tiger Project as its funds were used for construction

—Wildlife activist

past, but the authorities have ignored this so far.

"Locals have also demanded a probe about the role of Tiger Conservation Foundation of the Tiger Project since the funds of the foundation have been also used for the construction of an Orchidarium which violates Tiger Conservation Foundation Guidelines, 2007 because the funds were used to take up the construction in the core area of the Tiger Reserve which violates Project Tiger's 2012 Guidelines," said a wildlife activist in the region.

Many allege the construction of an Orchidarium is in defiance of the decision by the Centre as well as the Karnataka government's order dated October 23, 2002, which puts conditions for salvaging dead and fallen timber as per the approved management plans of the wildlife areas.

Wildlife activists say there should be a probe conducted on the lines of the Corbett Tiger Project area where senior forest officials have been named for committing irregularities under a safari project by felling thousands of trees and allowing constructions.



Core issue

Activists raise concerns over illegal development in core areas of Kali Tiger Reserve. Forest officials insist activities comply with rules.

BM had reported on March 19 about construction inside the reserve forest

Seamless mobility, a click away

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In an attempt to bring about multi-modal integration, the Namma Yatri app will bring bus, metro and auto travel on one platform. The app has been brought under the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) open mobility platform.

The app was designed as a driver-first auto rickshaw hailing app but will now integrate BMTC and BMRCCL on its platform depending on real-time data that can be shared.

Namma Yatri was built and launched by JusPay technologies in partnership with Bengaluru auto driver unions. The app has 45,000 drivers and 4.5 lakh customers.

In a press conference announcing the addition of the app to the ONDC's open mobility network, Founder of JusPay, Vimal Kumar told BM that Namma Yatri hopes to reduce costs by optimising oper-



The idea is to bring all modes of transport under one umbrella

ations. "As the next step, we want to reduce costs. We want to bring in several safety features like SOS and grievance mechanisms. However, in order to limit such situations, we are mulling the installations of dash cams in vehicles and enforcing stricter background verification of drivers."

The platform is planning to introduce an 'I am unsafe' feature to address mid-journey safety issues faced by women.

In a shift towards sustainable mobility,

the app plans to induct more EV autos. The platform is also planning to reduce cancellations by bringing in more measures. For example, the app would try to identify peak time and suggest to the user to postpone their booking to a non-peak time.

Announcing the partnership, T Koshy, CEO of ONDC, said, "An open mobility network on ONDC will build a large ecosystem of possibilities. First, it increases customer convenience by digitising and integrating all mobility services. Then, it provides equal opportunities to mobility players of all sizes and between existing and new players. It also helps drivers and service providers to earn a livelihood not beholden to platform interests. Finally, it amplifies the impact and the leverage of public transportation systems."

Anurag Jain, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade said, "To make transportation convenient and affordable in our growing cities, it is important to provide a seamless experience to users."

NATION

'Fighting for voice of India, ready to pay any price'



Congress legislators stage a protest after a Surat court convicted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a criminal defamation case, in Patna on Friday

#NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was on Friday disqualified from Lok Sabha, nearly 24 hours after a Surat court convicted him in a defamation case, an action the opposition party slammed as BJP's "vindictive politics" and vowed to fight legally and politically.

The BJP dismissed the charges and termed the disqualification "lawful".

Announcing his disqualification, the Lok Sabha Secretariat in a notification said following his conviction by the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Surat, Rahul Gandhi, Member of Lok Sabha representing the Wayanad constituency of Kerala stands disqualified from the membership of the House from the date of his conviction i.e. 23 March 2023.

The disqualification will bar 52-year-old Gandhi, a four-time MP, from contesting polls for eight years unless a higher court stays his conviction and sentence.

The court in Surat sentenced on Thursday Gandhi to two years in jail in a defamation case, filed on a complaint by BJP MLA Purnesh Modi for his remark, "How come all thieves have Modi

as the common surname?"

A lawmaker can escape a disqualification under the Representation of the People (RP) Act if the jail term, which should be two years or above, and the conviction both are stayed by the appellate court.

Gandhi will have to move an appellate court for relief and subsequently to the Lok Sabha Secretariat to seek restoration of his status as an MP after getting a favourable judicial order in the defamation case. In his first reaction after disqualification, Rahul Gandhi in a tweet said, "I am fighting for the voice of India. I am ready to pay any price."

While Congress leaders did not speak openly on the consequences of the verdict and disqualification, many leaders in the party feel this will help Rahul Gandhi and the party politically.

The action against Rahul Gandhi also saw a shift in the dynamics of opposition ranks with Trinamool Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, Bharat Rashtra Samithi and Samajwadi Party, despite their differences with the Congress, expressing support for the leader, along with several other opposition parties.

—PTI

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These roads are pulling in property buyers

As Bengaluru grows in all directions, realty witnesses spurt in many areas



Kanakapura and Mysuru roads are turning out to be a preferred destinations for property buyers. As the city of Bengaluru has been growing in all directions, there has been a spurt in property buying at Kanakapura, Mysuru, and Tavarekere roads. Surendranath R, a realtor, explained that in the last few decades, the city grew in the North-East and South-East directions due to the establishment of top tech companies in Whitefield and Electronic City. With

the airport moving to Devanahalli, there was realty growth in North Bengaluru, and now, South Bengaluru is also turning out to be a preferred destination. Shiva Kumar, a property dealer, pointed out that a host of infrastructure projects, such as the metro connectivity, NICE Road acting as a peripheral road, and the four-laning of Kanakapura Road, have made south Bengaluru an attractive destination. Furthermore, higher education institutions, including a deemed university, are

coming up on Kanakapura Road.

Meanwhile, the Mysuru-Bengaluru expressway has also aided the growth of realty. "The metro line is being extended till Challaghatta. Many property buyers who want to buy affordable land are now searching for the same in and around Mysuru-Tavarekere roads as there are a number of options. This is definitely a good time for buying property in south and west Bengaluru," said Ranganath Gowda, a realtor.

-Prakash VL

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STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

LET THE COLOURS BLEND

A white-throated kingfisher perching on a flowering tree at Doddanekundi Lake

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Vijita Asher**



If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

Richmond Road: Quick splash in wastewater

Commuters complain of inconveniences caused by overflowing of sewage, they urge BBMP to ensure clean paths

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The commuters using the Richmond Road say that the road often gets filled with the sewage water. According to them, it is a regular occurrence, and it is causing a lot of problems to them.

Anand Sharma, a commuter, said, "This is quite a busy and popular road. Several people use it, and it is still in this condition. The sewage water overflows every single day, and the commuters have no option but to keep on going through this condition. There must be some immediate action taken against this."



The sewage overflows every single day on Richmond Road

Some of the residents are also hesitant to use this stretch of road because of its unhygienic conditions.

Shivam Kaur, another commuter told Bangalore Mirror that he has been noticing this for a long time now and the amount of water coming on the road is quite a lot.

"I have no idea where the water is coming from. I just know that it is filthy; therefore, I have stopped using this road. I have no option but to take alternate ways which increase my travel time. This problem must be brought to the attention of the officials so that they can come up with some solution," he said. Other commuters added that the wastewater is more of a concern to

two-wheelers riders.

"The filthy water overflowing on the road is definitely a concern. The people driving two-wheelers are most affected because while passing the water splashes on their legs. It has happened to me so many times as well. For people who have sensitive skin, they can even get allergies. Moreover, the dirty water can cause a lot of health problems to people as well," said Aditya Rai, another commuter.

Furthermore, the pedestrians have to bear the inconvenience because of the dirty water.

"I usually walk through these roads and the puddles of dirty water make it very difficult for me to walk properly. There have been so many times when my shoes have gotten wet in the dirty water and I had to sit with them till the end of the day," said Archana Raj, another commuter.

Meanwhile, a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) official said that they would send their officials to the area to have a look at the problem.

“People driving two-wheelers are the most affected because while passing the water splashes on their legs

— Aditya Rai, a commuter

DID YOU KNOW?



Bengaluru Cantonment railway station is one of the oldest railway stations in Karnataka. It is said that the station was commissioned with a single platform for the use of the British Army. The commencement of the operations took place in 1864. Located in Vasanth Nagar, the station was inaugurated by Lord Bowring who was the chief commissioner of Mysore state. It was built with the purpose of linking Bengaluru to Madras. The station is connected to a total of 499 stations, out of which 119 trains start, end or pass through it. In 2014, the Bengaluru Division of the South Western Railway recognised the need for medical services at the station and opened a clinic to provide free medical services.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR
9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAP THE CHATTER

where Bangaloreans speak their mind

Suggest some of the effective recycling methods that can be implemented to reduce waste in our day-to-day lives.



Princy Nisha, BM Reader

Recycling is crucial in reducing waste and creating a sustainable future. Effective methods include sorting recyclables from trash, composting organic waste, using refillable containers, donating unwanted items, and buying products made from recycled materials.



Neelima Somashekar, BM Reader

It begins at home; the easiest way to reduce waste is to recycle your kitchen waste. Carry your own bags for shopping and have your own water bottles as much as possible.



Naveen Naranyappa, BM Reader

As a responsible citizen I am going to avoid the use of plastic covers and use bags made of other materials.



Dinesh P, BM Reader

I will teach my son to segregate waste and educate him about the types of waste that can be disposed of. I will make sure he practices what he learns.



Ankitha, BM Reader

I will avoid throwing things on the road and I'll look for dustbins to dispose of. I will read the labels (dry waste/wet waste) put up on the bins, and I'll discard them.



Anvitha, BM Reader

Waste management is the need of the hour. I'll teach my juniors and my neighbours about the importance of waste management. I will take water bottles from home instead of purchasing a bottle outside.

SPEAK TO US

How do you conserve water during summer?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247



Some couples see living together as a test for future marriage; For others, marriage is not a goal, so living together may be the ultimate statement of their commitment

MOVING IN TOGETHER?

Talking about these three things first can make it smoother

Partners who live together typically come to this significant place in their relationship in one of two ways – what some clinicians call “sliding versus deciding.” Moving in together can just kind of happen without too much thought, or it can be carefully considered and planned.

Some couples may see living together as a test for future marriage. For others, marriage is not a goal, so living together may be the ultimate statement of their commitment.

I have been a relationship therapist and researcher for over 25 years, specialising in intimate relationships. Based on my research and clinical experience, I recommend that couples discuss the significance of sharing a home before they merge households. Doing so gives partners an opportunity to set realistic expectations, negotiate household roles and practice their communication.

My colleagues and I developed a list of topics partners should talk about before moving in together – or even after, if the moving boxes are already unpacked. These topics are organised into three main categories.

1 Expectations

Why do you want to move in together? What is the purpose? Will it lead to marriage? Many relationships struggle with the intersection of reality and expectation.

Clients tell me that their expectations of living together are often based on what they grew

up with – for example, “My mom had dinner on the table every evening at 6 pm. I expect the same of my partner.” Expectations also extend to intimacy, such as, “Now that we are sharing a bed, we can have sex all the time.”

Conversations about what this stage of commitment means for the relationship and how it affects each individual’s identity are part of this negotiation. Is moving in together “practice” for marriage? Are we moving into one of our current places, or finding a new home together? How will we split up the household finances? How frequently will we be intimate? Will we get a pet?

Understanding what will and won’t change helps smooth this transition, making space for conversations about the nitty-gritty of living together.

2 Household roles

As people launch from their childhood homes, the household



rules they grew up with – both the ones they liked and the ones they hated – tend to come along for the ride.

It’s important for couples to talk about how they plan to handle mundane day-to-day tasks, such as dishes, trash, cooking, cleaning and so on. My colleagues and I recommend couples start these conversations by stating their strengths. If you like grocery shopping but hate cooking, first offer to do what you prefer. Talk through the different needs of your household – including finances, pets, kids, cars and so on – and try to find some balance in the division of responsibilities.

During these negotiations, remember to keep in mind each person’s obligations outside of the home. For example, if one person stays at home or has summers off, take that into consideration in determining balance.

I once worked with a couple where one partner wanted her spouse “to be less of an idiot.” When we dug a bit deeper, what she really wanted was for him to vacuum. Talking further, they began to understand that their household rules were neither balanced nor accommodating of the ebbs and flows of their lifestyle, family needs and professional demands.

3 Communication

Perhaps the most important conversation to have is actually about communication. How responsive do I expect my partner to be when I text them? How do I tell them I really need alone time? When can I talk to them about my changing needs?

This can be an excellent time to reach out to a couple and family therapist to help negotiate some of these issues. Many times, the hurtful comments people make to one another are really about expectations, fear, and the anxiety of the unknown. Talking about the best way to recognise and meet your partner’s needs and concerns invites collaboration and unity, which ultimately strengthens the relationship.

People and relationships change over time. Everyone is affected by their own life experiences, one of which can be moving in with a partner. Communication and empathy are key as expectations shift and evolve. This continues to be true as couples hit transitions throughout their lives.

Big things like moving, graduating and having children, as well as little things, like choosing which TV shows to watch, are important topics to have conversations about. Developing good communication skills can serve as the foundation for navigating the trials and tribulations relationships bring.

—Kristina S Brown,
(The Conversation)

MIND, BODY & HEART



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

My husband and I are in our early 50s, we’re both fit and healthy, and look a lot younger than we are. We have two kids, who are young teenagers now and I feel blessed to have such a lovely family life.

My problem is, my husband and I used to have a really good sex life. We never had to try at all really and were so compatible in that department.

From the beginning of our relationship we were very close and loving.

My problem is, things have gone stale.

Suddenly, sex feels like an effort. I feel like we’re not as close as we were and wonder why we’re experiencing this now. I’m feeling very sad that our relationship isn’t what it was in our 20s, 30s and even in our 40s. What do you think?

COLEEN SAYS

I don’t think it’s unusual to get to this stage in life and encounter problems or worries around intimacy. The longer you’re together, the more you take things, and each other, for granted. Your kids are older now and more independent, so you have to start reconnecting as a couple again.

But you have to consciously make an effort to do that. It’s not enough to acknowledge it and talk about it – you have to follow through and make plans, and keep the momentum going.

So instead of sitting on the couch watching telly, think about what you can introduce into your lives to help rebuild a bit of romance.

It might be taking turns to plan a night out once a week for just the two of you. At home you could have a night where you eat later than the kids, cook something a bit special, put on some music and talk. Plan some things that you liked doing before the kids came along – gigs, cinema, comedy nights, whatever it was you enjoyed.

—Coleen Nolan,
Daily Mirror

Ode to an odd request

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Palike officials felt the police must undertake an elaborate study about the requirement of the road humps in specific areas before filing a request. They clarified that sometimes the request is made for road humps but the site actually needs High Rise Pedestrian Crossing (HRPC) or rumble strips.

According to BBMP officials, road humps should be installed at places with multiple fatalities only. To qualify for a road hump, either five accidents including grievous injuries or fatalities or five fatal accidents should have occurred over the course of three years at the stretch in question.

Special commissioner of police (traffic) Dr MA Saleem told BM that the police have not placed these many requests for

new road humps. "However, there are 327 unscientific road humps; we have requested to make them scientific. The remaining requests have been made for new road humps in crossroads. We have not made the request for the installation of road humps on the main roads," he said.

BBMP officials said that construction of roads is a costly affair and there seems to be a fund crunch for road humps. Estimated cost is between Rs 60,000-70,000 for the construction of one road hump; it would cost Rs 3.2 crore to fulfil all the requests.

However, traffic experts are of the view that road humps should not be recommended. "This kind of unscientific humps is not seen anywhere in the world. These humps result in accidents. Ideally, the road humps should have a uniform parabolic shape and the

width should be 2.5 m allowing the vehicle to stand on them. Without the provision, it will be a problem for low-chassis vehicles. The central height of the hump should not be more than 15 cm accompanied by slopes on both sides for easy going over the humps. The humps should not be placed on major roads. There should be adequate signage, painting and lighting to indicate to the commuter the presence of the road hump. The Indian Road Congress should not recommend road humps," said traffic engineering management expert, MN Sreehari.

"Even in Delhi, road humps are being removed and replaced with multi-layered thermoplastic paint with each layer measuring 2.5 mm. The three-four layered paint does not harm the vehicle but causes discomfort to the driver leading to the slowing down of the vehicle. The paint can also reflect light," he added.

Status check: Compensatory afforestation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

issues which can be fatal for saplings and the need for change in maintenance practices," said Raghavendra B Pachhapur of ActionAid Association, the NGO that conducted the study last week.

The assessment conducted jointly by experts and college students spotted that the majority of the saplings had no protection guard around them, making them vulnerable to grazing. This was after six illegal entry points spotted at Veerasagara, Saraki and Gottigere lakes were found to be unfenced.

It was also noted that

binding wire was used to tie boards onto 113 saplings at Veerasandra Lake. Experts said using binding wire to tie boards onto the saplings is dangerous.

"Tree guards protect the saplings from cattle. We could spot only 192 tree guards protecting the saplings. Saplings without tree guards along lakes with complete fencing are a waste of energy, time and resources. Moreover, 113 tree saplings were noticed to be tied with a binding wire to hang the board with tree numbers. It will affect the health of saplings and hinder their growth," added Pachhapur.

Experts added that BMRL should ensure that

the lakes are appropriately fenced, have tree guards installed for all the saplings, and free the saplings from the binding wire. Moreover, the corporation should issue a guideline to all the contractors for using healthy ways of hanging boards.

"Since the survival rate of saplings is being impacted, BMRL should put in extra monitoring facilities, so they are being maintained well, especially during the summer. After two years of planting, it seems like the saplings are not getting the proper care at Gottigere and Saraki lakes," said Mimil S Joseph, a student who participated in the study.

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L. Chetan P Maney alias Chetna P Maney W/o. Naveen V Residing at No.66, 10th Main Road, Shivnagar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010 I affirm and state that, all the names i.e., CHETAN P MANEY and CHETAN PANDURANGA RAO MANEY and CHETNA P MANEY and CHETNA MANEY are one and the same and all the names belongs to me only and for none others. Vide affidavit dated: 23.03.2023 Sworn before notary: V.Anjanappa, Bangalore

L. KAVITA KAMKAR, W/o. Ravindranath Kamkar, Residing at No.1048, 4th Cross, 20th Main, Nisarga Layout, Harapanahalli, Bangalore 560105, Karnataka, India, have changed my name to KAVITA RAVINDRANATH KAMKAR, vide affidavit dated: 20.03.2023 before notary B.V.Nagabhushana, Bangalore.

I. Munot Suchita Sanjay W/O. Jayesh K Jain R/o No.36/2, Matru Chaya, 2nd Cross, Nagappa Block, Blore 560021 have changed my name to Suchita Jain for all purposes.

L. SWEENAL LALE, W/o Somenath Mondal, R/o Akme Harmony Tower 1C, Flat 303 Akme Harmony, Bellandur Outer Ring Road, Bengaluru - 560103, have changed my name as SWEENAL DEOCHAND LALE, vide affidavit dated 23.03.2023 sworn before notary Y.V. Shankar, Bengaluru.

I. Sharath Thivalappil Kumaraswamy Sasidharan, S/o TK Sasidharan R/o Flat No 3 Angel Apartment, Bangalore have changed my name from Sharath Kumar Thivalappil Kumaraswamy Sasidharan to Sharath Thivalappil Kumaraswamy Sasidharan for all future purposes.

L. Vineeth Karma V R S/o Venugopal N Residing at No 15, Krishna Nagar, Shettihalli Jalalahalli West, Bangalore-560015 have changed my name to VINEETH KUMAR vide affidavit dated 23.03.2023 Sworn before notary: V.Anjanappa, Bangalore

L. NEELESH KUMAR PATHAK S/o Om Prakash Pathak residing at No. 3054, Prestige Royale Gardens, Avalahalli, Bangalore-560064, have changed my name to NEELESH PATHAK, vide affidavit dated 27.02.2023 before notary B V Nagabhushana, Bengaluru.

I. Rajesha B C r/o #80 Belaganakuppe Kanakapura Banavasi Maralawadi Ramanagar Karnataka -562121 changed name to Rajesh B C

L. Pallavi S G W/O. Ravi Kumar R, R/o #39, 7th Cross, Ramakrishna Nagar, Blore-78 have changed my name to Pallavi G for all purposes.

L. VIDYAA SHIVLAL RATHOD R/o at No. L-54, Palace Garden Apartment, Palace Cross Road, Bengaluru- 560020 have changed my name to VIDYA SHIVLAL RATHOD vide affidavit dated: 16/3/2023 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

L. ESHA DAS, W/o Rahul Basu R/o 107/2, Pearl Coronet, Apt. Flat no. G1, 4th Main Road, S.G. Palya, C V Raman Nagar Bengaluru - 560093 have changed my name as ESHA BASU, vide affidavit dated 23.03.2023 sworn before notary Y.V. Shankar, Bengaluru.

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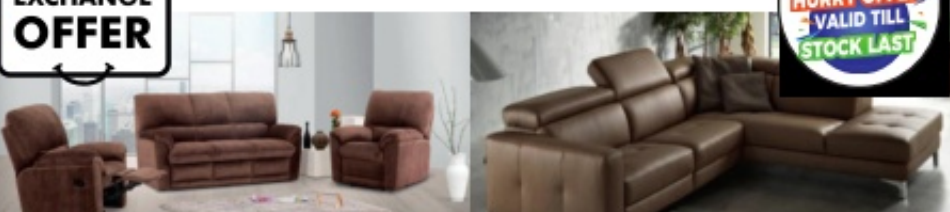
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Veteran director Pradeep Sarkar was cremated in Mumbai. The film-maker best-known for directing films like Parineeta, Helicopter Eela and Mardaani, breathed his last on Friday. He was 67.

LAZY? Not me

Urvashi Rautela says she has worked hard to get where she is

Urvashi Rautela recently expressed her opinion on Sonali Kulkarni's 'women are lazy' comment. She opened up about the backlash the comment received and revealed why it doesn't apply to her.

In an Instagram video shared by a paparazzi account, Urvashi was asked about the controversy surrounding Sonali Kulkarni's remark about Indian women. In response, she stated that the remark does not apply to her because she is an outsider. According to

her, everybody knows how hardworking she is and that she has made a career in Bollywood on her own.

The actress also added that her fans know her globally. Urvashi also revealed that she is the only Indian girl to win Miss Universe India twice and is the youngest judge in history to have judged Miss Universe. So

The remark doesn't apply to me as I am an outsider. Everybody knows I am hardworking and that I made a career on my own

the comment doesn't apply to her.

She also went on to add that the quote applies to all the velli (jobless) girls out

there. Urvashi then concluded by saying that she doesn't want to hurt anybody, but that is the reason for the matter."

—ETimes



Fortunate son

Prajwal Devaraj has been busy with the post-production work of his latest movie Veeram. Its trailer was released amidst much fanfare at Veeresh Theater on Thursday.



Prajwal's parents, brother, well-wishers and fans attended the function. Prajwal plays Dr Vishnuvardhan's fan in the movie.

"I am lucky to have my parents. I am also fortunate to play Dr Vishnuvardhan sir's fan in this movie. I will never forget my association with Dr Vishnuvardhan," said Prajwal.

Thanking veteran actress Shruthi for her affection and encouragement, Prajwal remembered his father's encouragement when his maiden movie Sixer was released. "Now, I got similar support from Shruthi madam," he said.

Shruthi said that she became emotional during the dubbing of this movie. "Prajwal has worked very hard to play the lead in Veeram," said Shruthi.



Bridal OOTD

Swara Bhasker looked like a vision to behold in her Walima outfit, which was sent to the actress by a Pakistani designer, all the way from Lahore. She was recently trolled for showering praise on the designer.

Swara recently took to Twitter to share more photos of herself wearing the stun-

ning lehenga and praised it once more.

She wrote, 'OBSESSED! Cannot get over the grace & beauty of this creation by the mad genius of @ALIXEESHAN.. complemented seamlessly by jewellery from @apalabysum-it. So grateful to benefit from the talent of such generous magicians! Beautifully shot by Tarun Chawla.' — ETimes

Power-dressing couple



On Thursday night, several celebrities attended a sports awards show which honoured many people from the field of sports. The red carpet saw the likes of Virat Kohli-Anushka Sharma, Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh with Prakash Padukone and Abhishek Bachchan among others.

As they got dressed for the occasion, Virat and Anushka dropped some pictures on social media. They make a stunning couple. As Virat was dressed in a navy blue suit, Anushka opted for an off-shoulder, purple bodycon dress with a slit. She complimented the dress with some silver jewellery.

As the couple dropped these pictures with a heart emoji, fans couldn't stop gushing over them. One user wrote, "Definition of power couple". Virat and Anushka are dishing out couple goals every now and then. Even at the red carpet, their chemistry was quite evident and they just couldn't stop smiling while indulging in some conversation. —ETimes

Sush is back to work

Sushmita Sen, who suffered from a heart attack and underwent a surgery recently, was spotted outside a dubbing studio in Mumbai. The actress was seen pausing and posing for the paparazzi there.

Dressed in a navy blue top and sky blue pants, Sushmita looked gorgeous as ever. Her open tresses and cool shades completed her overall stylish look.

Sushmita has started dubbing for her upcoming film, 'Taali', which is a biopic on transwoman Gauri Sawant. Sushmita, who will be playing the lead role in the movie, had shared a poster sporting a big round maroon bindi on her forehead and clapping.

On March 2, Sushmita left her fans in shock when she revealed on Instagram that she had just survived a heart attack and had undergone angioplasty. —ETimes



Five stories

Guru Deshpande has been busy in making arrangements for the release of his latest movie Pentagon. The speciality of this movie is that it consists of five stories directed by five directors. Pentagon is the second film to have an anthology of stories after Katha Sangama, made in 2019.

Pentagon has five directors such as Raghu Shivamogga, Guru Deshpande, Akash Srivatsa, Chandramohan, and Kiran Kumar.

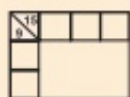
The movie has an ensemble of actors including Ravi Shankar, Prakash Belawadi, Kishore, Prerana Kambam, Prithika Deshpande, Ravi Naik, Shruthi Naik, Vamshi Krishna and others.

At the trailer launch, Raghu Shivamogga thanked Guru Deshpande for giving him a chance to handle the megaphone for one of the movies - Kamaturanam Na Bhayam Na Lajja - which highlights how youth are being exploited by cyber criminals. Prakesh Belawadi said that he plays a different role in this movie. Akash Srivatsa has handled the megaphone for Mysore Pak which highlights the struggle between parents and children.



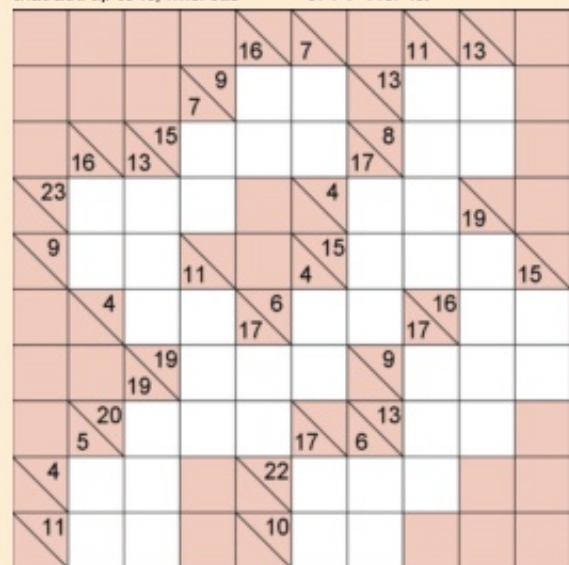
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

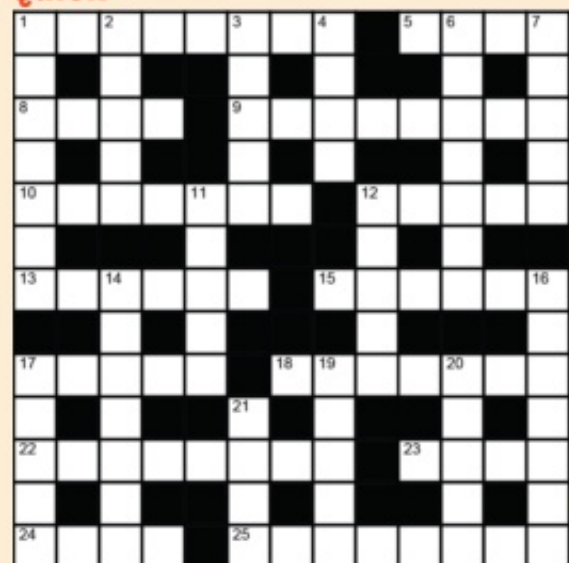


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Higher in rank, quality, etc. (8)
- 5 Show appreciation (4)
- 8 Is in debt (4)
- 9 Consignment of goods (8)
- 10 Swindled out of a coat? (7)
- 12 Bird's claw (5)
- 13 Disagree in opinion? (6)
- 15 Made beer (6)
- 17 Oracles (5)
- 18 Manama is its capital city (7)
- 22 Supports or certifies (8)
- 23 Trivial lies (4)
- 24 Grave (4)
- 25 Sparsely; not densely (8)

DOWN

- 1 Pooh-poohed (7)
- 2 Segment (5)
- 3 Point in question (5)
- 4 Water from the clouds (4)
- 6 Hides out (4,3)
- 7 Mount; don (3,2)
- 11 Musical symbols (5)
- 12 Portable light (5)
- 14 Park in Bangalore's Central Business District (7)
- 16 Family reign (7)
- 17 Perspire (5)
- 19 Perplexed or uncertain (2,3)
- 20 Legal get-out (5)
- 21 Venomous snakes (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS T
RH ULL EJ XVCFK—FKW RH
OYFCU ER HK F AHCSVRUL EJ
UNUK CHLU JH.



Linemaro

Just shut your mouth, you had me at 'hello'



Mindchow

Thinking is more interesting than knowing, but less interesting than looking



Joke of the day

Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is like expecting the lion not to attack you because you are a vegetarian

Loop

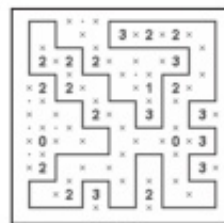
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

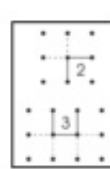
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

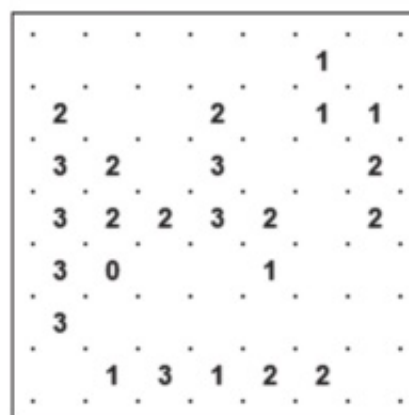
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



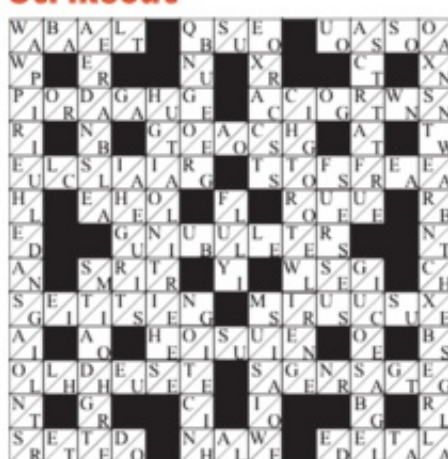
(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

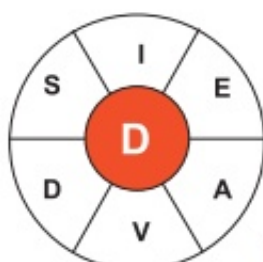
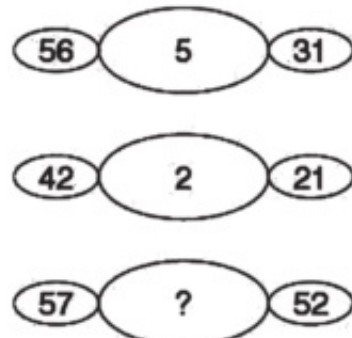
- 1 Phase; 6 On Wag;
- 7 Glad I; 8 Ler me;
- 9 Up Rod

DOWN

- 1 Was MP; 2 Lehar;
- 3 Or gag; 4 Ilo up;
- 5 Den Ed

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

13 Average; 15 Good; 17 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

□ □ □ □ □ = 25

2 5 6 7

Medium

□ □ □ □ □ = 3

2 2 3 6

Hard

□ □ □ □ □ = 2

3 5 9 3

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Back of chair is higher; 2. Man's head is tilted; 3. Lampshade is smaller; 4. Arm of chair is different; 5. Table leg is moved; 6. Necklace is different.

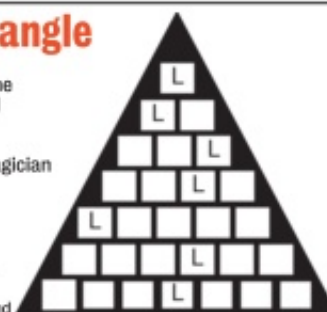
Riddler

1. Father: What day is it? I am sure it isn't Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. 2. Mother: Well that's not very helpful dear. Besides yesterday was Friday. 3. Father: No, now that I think about it, yesterday wasn't Friday, tomorrow is Friday. 4. Jon: The day after tomorrow is Thursday. 5. Meg: You are nuts. Tomorrow is Thursday. 6. Mother: Actually, it's probably Thursday today. 7. Jon: All we know for sure is that it wasn't Sunday yesterday. If only one statement above is true, what day of the week is it?

Alpha triangle

- 1 Learner's plate
- 2 51 in ancient Rome
- 3 It's nothing at all
- 4 Memphis' river
- 5 Big boat
- 6 King Arthur's magician
- 7 More macho

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Your small investments may convert into big profits. Your working efficiency may increase now. You are likely to get success with less effort. You may hear good news in legal matters also. You may have full control over your opponents and rivals.

Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23
Today, your creativity may be on a high, and you may plan to renovate your house. You may buy some stuff to renovate your house or office, which may increase your social status. There is likely to be some harmony with your spouse, which creates harmony in domestic life. Disputes with friends, co-workers, and partners may settle down. You may get good news in terms of litigations.

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22
Today, you may be happy at work. You may likely take some important decisions by the end of the day, which will help you in the near future. You may plan for a short trip also. Your subordinates may likely be cooperative. You may expect some good news in terms of sibling's success. You may likely be in winning positions of legal matters also. Students may be more focused to achieve their targets.

Taurus Apr 21 - May 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You are likely to have good profits from your past investments. You will get rewards for your hard work in professional and domestic life. Your prestige may increase now. You may start new innovation in the business. Disputes with your spouse may be resolved now.

Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23
Today, you will be glad, and you will be able to maintain a balance between your earning and expenditure, which will boost your finances. Your network will help you to implement your plans. Your siblings and subordinate staff will be more helpful today. Plan to visit elders or religious places.

Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20
Today, your communication skills may help you in terms of the professional front. You may likely be more polite with everyone around you, which may help you to speed up your projects.

Gemini May 21 - Jun 21
Today, you may feel better, and situations may be under control. Your network may help you in the work front. You may plan for overseas travel. This is a good time to increase domestic harmony and love life. With the help of creativity, you may bring some artifacts or creative stuff for the family.

Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22
Today, you may feel dullness due to sleeplessness, and you may be scattered towards your goals, which may affect your working efficiency. You may plan to visit some religious places. But in the late evening, you may be blessed by your elders. You may find out your mistakes and may make a good plan for the coming day. You are advised to take care of your parents' health.

Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19
Today, you are blessed by the moon. New Partnership may give you benefits. Your energy levels are likely to be high. Your hard work and enthusiasm may pay you off in terms of financial gains. Self respect may protect you from negative people around you.

Cancer Jun 22 - July 23
Today, you may get tired due to overworking. It may make you lazy and careless, and you are advised to keep patience. If you are planning for an adventure tour, you are advised to postpone it for a while. Your past investments may convert into dead stock. Students are advised to work hard. You may have backache, nervous system, liver-related issues, and skin issues.

Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22
Today, until late afternoon, you may feel dullness in your nature, which may reflect into your way of working. But with the help of elders' blessings, you may likely come back to your speed. You may likely pay extra attention to your kids' health. You will be in a winning position against your enemies and opponents. Investors shall be careful while taking difficult decisions. Stomach issues may make you upset.

Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20
Today, you may likely meet some old friends or be busy in social gatherings. You may feel more excited today, and there may be new innovations in terms of your business. Additionally, you may likely have some unexpected material gains. Kids may give good news in terms of their studies, and lovebirds may enjoy their quality moments.

KIDZONE



Ria Gharti,
10 Years,
The Samhita
Academy



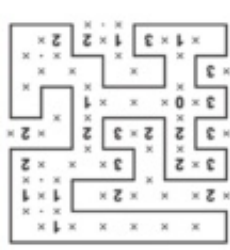
Saavi Kiran
Gaikwad,
6 Years,
Geethanjali
Vidyalaya

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCGF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bangalore 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



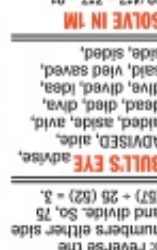
LOOP



TRIANGLE



ALPHA



SUDOKU



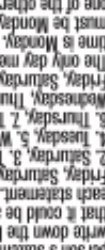
MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



QUOTE UNCODE

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